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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/820,082

04/07/2004

Sarmad Adnan

25.0242

7138

25576

7590

09/21/2005

SCHLUMBERGER CONVEYANCE AND DELIVERY

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EXAMINER

CHAPMAN JR, JOHN E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2856

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/820,082	Applicant(s) ADNAN, SARMAD	
	Examiner John E. Chapman	Art Unit 2856	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 8-16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 17-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/3/04; 11/3/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g).

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the stripper element (claim 14) and hydraulic valve (claim 17) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

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2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Paragraph 5, line 3, "for inspecting for coiled" should be --for inspecting coiled--.

Page 8, line 4, "contract" should be --contact--.

Page 8, line 9, "contract" should be --contact--.

Paragraph 21, line 12, "contract" (both instances) should be --contact--.

Page 8, last line, --contact-- should follow "continuous".

Paragraph 22, line 3, "a" should be --at--.

Page 11, line 5, "contract" should be --contact--.

Page 11, line 7, "contract" should be --contact--.

Appropriate correction is required.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 17, there is insufficient structure recited to support the "wherein" clause.

In particular, the hydraulic valve is not operatively connected to the acoustic transducer in the claim. A means for controlling the hydraulic valve in response to a signal received by the acoustic transducer should be recited.

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5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1, 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Krautkramer et al.

It is well known in the art to inspect a pipe by contacting a pipe with a coupling material, transmitting and receiving acoustic signals, and releasing the contact of the coupling material with the pipe after receiving the acoustic signals, as taught in Fig. 24.6 of Krautkramer et al.

8. Claims 3, 5, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krautkramer et al. in view of Livingston (5,303,592).

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The only difference between the claimed invention and the prior art consists in using the pipe probe in Fig. 24.6 of Krautkramer et al. to inspect coiled tubing. It would have been obvious to use the pipe probe to inspect tubulars in general, and coiled tubing in particular, in view of Livingston, which teaches ultrasonic inspection of coiled tubing.

9. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krautkramer et al. in view of Brech et al. (3,583,211).

The only difference between the claimed invention and the prior art consists in confirming whether a returned acoustic signal is received. It is well known in the art to confirm the receipt of a returned acoustic signal in order to confirm acoustic coupling between a probe body and a tubing, as taught by Brech et al. See also page 443 of Krautkramer et al. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to confirm that a returned acoustic signal is received in the method of Krautkramer et al. in order to confirm acoustic coupling of the pipe probe to the workpiece.

10. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Linares et al. (6,782,751).

Linares discloses a pipe inspection method comprising contacting a pipe 201 with a coupling material 203 and transmitting and receiving acoustic signals. Contact of the coupling material with a portion of the pipe is released after an acoustic signal is received, so that another portion of the pipe can be inspected.

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11. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Linares et al. in view of Brech et al. (3,583,211).

The only difference between the claimed invention and the prior art consists in confirming whether a returned acoustic signal is received. It is well known in the art to confirm the receipt of a returned acoustic signal in order to confirm acoustic coupling between a probe body and a tubing, as taught by Brech et al. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to confirm that a returned acoustic signal is received in order to confirm acoustic coupling between the probe 211 to the pipe 201 of Linares.

12. Claims 8-16 are allowed.

13. Claims 17-20 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.


14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Dannehl discloses a means for increasing the contact pressure of a test head to a workpiece comprising a valve V.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John E. Chapman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2191. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron

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Williams can be reached on (571) 272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John E Chapman
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2856